



MEMORANDUM

OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER

To: Town Council

From: Greg Larson, Town Manager

Subject: Items of Interest

Date: December 12, 2014

Questions regarding the following Items of Interest should be directed to me. As specified by Town Policy, the Mayor or any two members of Council may request consideration of these or any items at a future Council Meeting.

1. **Storm Response Update**

The following is a summary of some of the activities resulting from this week's storm:

PPW implemented the departmental storm watch protocol. This assigns field staff in specific zones for response and proactive patrol. Calls are received at PPW Administration and dispatched via radio to the appropriate crew. Where future follow-up is required, administrative staff track those items and ensure the follow-up is completed after the storm.

PPW staff responded to 43 specific issues called in by residents. These included blocked storm drains, a few downed trees, sewage overflows, and general flooding. This amounted to approximately 60% of the work generated from the storm.

PPW staff also patrolled and mitigated unexpected flooding areas and known hot spots. Hot spots are areas that are known to be problematic and, when overwhelmed, lead to additional flooding with potential property damage. A prime example is the trash rack at the west end of Main Street that captures debris washed down from the hillside. Staff emptied that trash rack with a backhoe six times yesterday. These proactive measures take about 30% of field staff time during the storm watch.

The balance of staff time is spent supporting other storm related operations, such as ensuring sand and sand bags are available. Staff delivered 80 tons of sand to Miles Avenue in numerous trips. The demand for sand and sandbags was extremely high leading up to and during the storm.

The most significant events during this storm included: Los Gatos Creek Trail flooding near Charter Oaks (this occurs during every major storm), toppling of a large 100 year old Oak tree on upper Happy Acres Road, and the previously referred half-street flooding on Frank Avenue which was partially mitigated during this storm with a pump and hoses to the storm drain system.

2. **Tuesday's Board and Commission Interviews**

Tuesday's Board and Commission Interviews are scheduled to begin at 5:00 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers. Dinner will be available at 4:30 in the upstairs copy room for those having placed an order.

3. **Leaf Blower Calls and Notices**

Staff would like to provide the following information regarding leaf blower activity, which includes status since the last update to Council on September 26, 2014.

- Beginning January 1, 2015 Code Compliance staff may issue citations if warranted, regarding reported violations to bring property owners and gardeners into compliance.
- A post card has been mailed to every household in the Town to remind residents, gardeners and property owners of the ordinance enforcement date and to educate on the key provisions of the ordinance.
- The Town has received approximately 205 leaf blower complaints from July 1 through December 10, 2014, since soft enforcement went into effect. In addition, a few home owners associations and large property owners remain concerned about their ability to comply with the ordinance.
- Information on the ordinance can found at www.LosGatosCa.gov/LeafBlowers.

4. **Veteran's Memorial Proposal**

The Arts and Culture Commission continues to make progress in reviewing the Foundation's proposal. At Thursday's meeting, the Veteran's Foundation presented areas of flexibility (see attached) which was further expanded during the presentation by the Foundation's artist.

In addition to prior direction, the ACC also began considering both 1) removal of the old fountain altogether to make the upper deck more usable, and 2) placing the Veteran's Memorial adjacent to the main lawn between the old library and the Pageant Way parking lot. The ACC may have a draft set of recommendations and/or alternatives by the end of next week's meeting.

5. **Planning Commission Agenda**

Attached is a copy of the December 10 Planning Commission agenda indicating actions taken on each item.

6. **Letters of Appreciation**

Attached are letters of appreciation received for Police Department and Community Development staff.

7. **Town Closure**

As a reminder of information provided to Council in November, Town administrative offices will be closed Wednesday, December 24, 2014 through Friday, January 2, 2015. The Library will have a slightly different closure period, from Wednesday, December 24 through Sunday, December 28, and Wednesday, December 31, 2014 through Friday, January 2, 2015. Monday, December 22 and Tuesday, December 23 are normal business days with regular office hours for all departments.

PPW and Police dispatch and patrol will operate as is typical on weekend days during all closure periods.

GL:jj

Attachments

Veteran's Foundation
Planning Commission Agenda – December 10
Letters of Appreciation